

Appl. No. 10/647,165

Amendment dated February 25, 2005

Reply to Non-final Office Action of August 25, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A process of making particulate foam regulating granulates, comprising the steps of spraying an aqueous foam regulating emulsion that comprises 16% to 70% by weight of a foam regulating active ingredient based on either or both a paraffin wax or silicone oil, 2% by weight to 15% by weight of a nonionic and/or anionic emulsifier, and not more than 80% by weight of water onto a solid carrier material, optionally followed by a drying step, wherein the carrier material comprises an alkali metal carbonate and a Brønsted acid.
2. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the Brønsted acid is in solid form at 25°C.
3. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the Brønsted acid has a solubility in water of at least 100 g/l at 25°C.
4. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the Brønsted acid is selected from the group consisting of di- and tricarboxylic acids, their acidic salts, the acidic salts of inorganic acids, and mixtures thereof.
5. (original) The process of claim 4, wherein the Brønsted acid is selected from the group consisting of NaHSO_4 , Na_2HPO_4 , NaH_2PO_4 , and mixtures thereof.

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6. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the carrier material comprises alkali metal carbonate and a Brønsted acid in a weight ratio of from 1:1 to 100:1.

7. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the carrier material comprises alkali metal carbonate and a Brønsted acid in a weight ratio of from 20:3 to 80:3.

8. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the carrier material comprises 40% to 90% by weight of alkali metal carbonate and 1-20% by weight of Brønsted acid.

9. (original) The process of claim 8, wherein the carrier material comprises 60% by weight to 80% by weight of alkali metal carbonate and 3% by weight to 9% by weight of Brønsted acid.

10. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the carrier material additionally comprises further detergent or cleaner constituents which are solid and/or formulated in solid form.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises 15% by weight to 60% by weight of paraffin wax or a mixture of paraffin wax and silicone oil, 1% by weight to 10% by weight of bis-fatty acid amide deriving from C₂₋₇-diamines and C₁₂₋₂₂-fatty acids, 2% by weight to 15% by weight of nonionic and/or anionic emulsifier, and not more than 80% by weight of water.

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12. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises 30% by weight to 50% by weight of paraffin wax or a mixture of paraffin wax and silicone oil.

13. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises a mixture of silicone oil and paraffin wax in the weight ratio 2:1 to 1:100.

14. (currently amended) The process of claim 13, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises a mixture of silicone oil and paraffin wax in the weight ratio 1:1 to 1:10.

15. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the paraffin wax is solid at room temperature and is in completely liquid form at 100°C.

16. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the paraffin wax has a liquid fraction of at least 50% by weight at 40°C, and a liquid fraction of at least 90% by weight at 60°C.

17. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein the paraffin wax has a liquid fraction of at least 55% by weight at 40°C.

18. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises 3% by weight to

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8% by weight of bis-fatty acid amide deriving from C₂₋₇-diamines and C₁₂₋₂₂-fatty acids.

19. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion has a content of silicone oil in the range from 0.1% by weight to 10% by weight.

20. (original) The process of claim 19, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion has a content of silicone oil in the range from 1% by weight to 5% by weight.

21. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous foam regulating emulsion comprises 3% by weight to 10% by weight of one or more nonionic and/or anionic emulsifiers.

22. (original) The process of claim 21, wherein the nonionic emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of alkoxyates of alcohols, alkylamines, vicinal diols, or carboxamides that have alkyl groups with 8 to 22 carbon atoms and whose average degree of alkoxylation is from 1 to 10.

23. (original) The process of claim 17, wherein 15 to 50 parts by weight of the foam regulating emulsion, optionally heated to a temperature in the range from 70°C to 180°C, are sprayed onto 40 to 110 parts by weight of carrier material and subjected to granulation in a granulating mixer.

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24. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein 25 to 35 parts by weight of the foam regulating emulsion, optionally heated to a temperature in the range from 70°C to 180°C, are sprayed onto 60 to 90 parts by weight of carrier material and subjected to granulation in a granulating mixer.

25. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the Brønsted acid is citric acid.

26. (original) A particulate foam regulating agent comprising a foam regulating active ingredient based on paraffin wax and/or silicone oil, nonionic and/or anionic emulsifier, and solid carrier material, wherein the carrier material comprises an alkali metal carbonate and a Brønsted acid.